

The Stories That Remain

Pastor Craig Sweeney | June 18, 2023

Thread: Jesus is “willing.”

“In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.’ Jesus reached out and touched him. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be healed!’ And instantly the leprosy disappeared.”

Luke 5: 12 – 13 NLT

Jesus is “willing.”

- He desires to heal and restore even those farthest away—the most hopeless cases.
- Others have had to let go, in this case, for their own safety.
- For the person who FEELS UNTOUCHABLE for whatever reason of brokenness, Jesus is WILLING!
- When a miracle is needed, it’s always an issue of faith. Who is your faith in today?

“Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, ‘Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.’ But despite Jesus’ instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.”

Luke 5:14 – 16 NLT

Jesus was continually going to Chair Time—filling himself with the Father’s presence.

- YES! That is a question back to all of us.
- Are you running on empty? YOU know why. It’s time to take care of it!
- What’s your FUEL TANK gauge telling you?

“One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord’s healing power was strongly with Jesus. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, ‘Young man, your sins are forgiven.’ But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, ‘Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!’ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, ‘Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk?’ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.’ Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!’ And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, ‘We have seen amazing things today!’” Luke 5:17 – 26 NLT

Jesus is “willing!”

- We have a part to play in the lives of people who are:
 - Far from God
 - Struggling to hold on to their faith in overwhelming circumstances
- Our encouragement can carry others to Jesus:
 - Helping them hang on to their faith
 - Helping them to gather greater faith to themselves
- Who are you “willing” to hold out faith for?

Challenge:

-Do you believe Jesus is “willing” FOR you?

-Who are you “willing” to hold out FAITH for?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resources.